UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER
GAUTHIER, GERALD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2645	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)
	09/193,249		CHESTON ET AL.
	Examiner		Art Unit
	Gerald Gauthier		2645

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1-43* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) *1-43* is/are rejected.

7) ☒ Claim(s) *18,19,32 and 33* is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: .

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

PTO-326 (Rev. 04-01)   Office Action Summary   Part of Paper No. 9

DETAILED ACTION

Oath/Declaration

1.   The declaration is objected to because of the following informalities: the

application number "08, 057,369" should be changed to "09/057,369".

Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

2.   The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: page 1, line 2

after the title, the application number "08, 057,369" should be changed to "09/057,369".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3.   **Claims 18, 19, 32 and 33** are objected to because of the following informalities:

in **claim 18**, line 3 and in **claim 32** line 2 the abbreviation "TCAP" should be written out

for clarity.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4.　　　The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding **claim 1**, lines 4 and 12, the word "type" renders the claim indefinite because adding it to an otherwise definite expression extends the scope of the claim, thereby rendering the scope of the claim unascertainable.

Claim 3 line 4, **claim 5** line 3, **claim 6** line 4, **claim 8** lines 2 and 3, **claim 9** line 4, **claim 10** lines 3, 4 and 5, **claim 15** lines 6, 11 and 14, **claim 20** line 6, **claim 21** line 6, **claim 23** line 4, **claim 24** lines 8, 9 and 14, **claim 25** line 5, **claim 34** lines 7, 12 and 16, **claim 35** line 6, **claim 37** line 5, **claim 39** line 4, **claim 40** line 5 and **claim 42** lines 3 and 4, have the same problem.

Claims 2, 4, 7, 11-14, 16-19, 22, 26-33, 36, 38, 41 and 43 are depended on rejected claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Lennig et al. U. S. Patent No. 5,479,488 (hereinafter Lennig).

Regarding **claim 1,** Lennig discloses a voice-responsive messaging system

comprising:

a voice processing unit (see 14 on FIG. 1) configured for recording a destination

party identity and a destination address type, spoken by calling party, for a

corresponding message (see column 4, lines 33-35);

a speech recognition unit (see 14A on FIG.2) for outputting data corresponding to

identified words spoken by the calling party (see column 4, lines 35-37);

and a master control unit (see 10 on FIG. 1) configured for generating a

destination address query for an identified directory database (see 16 on FIG. 1) in

response to identification of the destination party identity and the destination address

type by the speech recognition unit, wherein the master control unit, in response to

receiving a destination address reply from the identified directory database, selectively

initiates a transfer of the message to the destination party based on the destination

address reply (see column 4, lines 37-45).

Regarding **claim 2,** Lennig discloses a system further comprising a signaling network interface for sending the destination address query to the identified directory database, and for receiving the destination address reply from the identified directory database, via an interoffice signaling network configured for exchanging data between the voice-responsive messaging system and the identified directory database (see column 4, lines 10-21).

Regarding **claim 43,** Lennig discloses a system wherein the master control unit is configured for initiating a second destination address query for a second identified directory database in response to the destination address reply from the identified directory database (see column 4, lines 37-42).

6.   **Claims 15, 24, 34, 38 and 39** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being

anticipated by Jones et al U. S. Patent No. 5,193,110 (hereinafter Jones).

Regarding **claims 15 and 24,** Jones discloses a telecommunications network

comprising:

a central office switching system configured for receiving a line-sided connection

with a calling party (see 20 on FIG. 1);

a unified message platform system comprising a speech recognition unit (see

14A on FIG. 2) for identifying a destination party identity and a destination address type

based on respective speech samples supplied by the calling party via the line-sided

connection (see column 4, lines 29-33), the unified message platform outputting a

destination address query based on the destination party identity and the destination

address type (see column 4, lines 35-42);

a directory database (see 16 on FIG. 1) for storing destination addresses for

respective destination parties based on destination address type, the directory database

generating a directory response based on reception of the destination address query

(see column 7, lines 55-67); and

a data network (see 12 on FIG. 1) for transporting the destination address query

and the directory response between the unified message platform system and the

directory database according to a prescribed data network protocol.

Regarding **claim 34,** Jones discloses a telecommunications network comprising:

a central office switching system configured for receiving a line-sided connection with a calling party (see 20 on FIG. 1); and

a unified message platform system comprising:

(1) a speech recognition unit (see 14A on FIG. 2) for identifying a destination party (see 40 on FIG. 1) and a destination address type (see 16 and 18 on FIG. 1) from respective speech inputs provided by the calling party via the line-sided connection (see column 4, lines 29-33), and

(2) a directory access system (see FIG. 1) for accessing destination address information for the destination party based on the corresponding destination address type, the unified message platform configured for forwarding a recorded message based on accessing the destination address information for the corresponding destination address type (see column 4, lines 33-37).

Regarding **claim 38,** Jones discloses a system wherein the selected one processing unit forwards the message to a destination address specified in the destination address reply in response to a forward command from the calling party (see column 4, lines 50-52).

Regarding **claim 39,** Jones discloses a system wherein one of the processing units supplies a destination address retrieved from the directory response based on the corresponding message type (see S3, S4, S6, S8 and S13 on FIG.5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art
> are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to
> a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be
> negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Lennig in view of Jones et al. U. S. Patents No. 5,193,110 (hereinafter Jones).

Regarding **claim 3**, Lennig as applied to **claim 1** above differs from **claim 3** in that Lennig does not disclose a plurality of processing units.

However, Jones discloses a system further comprising:

a plurality of processing units, each configured for storing and processing a message for the calling party having a corresponding message type (see 30-30n on FIG. 1); and

a digital switching system (see 26 on FIG. 1) for switching calls between an assigned Multi-Line Hunt Group (see 46 on FIG.2) and a selected one of the processing units (see 44 on FIG. 2), the master control unit selectively causing the digital switching system to establish a line-sided connection between the selected one processing unit and the calling party for retrieval of the message for the calling party (see column 4, lines 32-38).

Since the plurality of processing units will help the identification of calling destinations; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Lennig's system as modified by Jones to add plurality of processing units.

The modification will allow the subscriber to search the directory database such that the system provider of Lennig may search the directory on more than one processing units.

Regarding **claim 4,** Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 3** above differ from

claim 4 in that **claim 4** recites a response to a forward command from the calling party.

However, Jones discloses a system wherein the selected one processing unit

forwards the message to a destination address specified in the destination address

reply in response to a forward command from the calling party (see column 4, lines 50-

52).

Since the forward command from the calling party will help to locate the

destination party identity; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at

that time of the invention was made to have Lennig's system as modified by Jones as

stated in the rejection for **claim 3** above, further adding a forward command from the

calling party as taught by Jones.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the personal directory such that

the system provider of Lennig may search the destination party on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 5,** Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 4** above differ from

claim 5 in that **claim 5** further discloses a corresponding message type protocol.

However, Jones discloses a system wherein the selected one processing unit

supplies the message to the destination address according to a corresponding message

type protocol (see column 4, lines 52-58).

Since the corresponding message protocol will help locating the destination

address; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the

invention was made to have Lennig's system as modified by Jones as stated in the

rejection for **claim 4** above, further adding a message protocol as taught by Jones.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the query such that the system

provider of Lennig may search the database via the network interface.

Regarding **claim 6,** Lennig and Jones disclose everything as applied to **claim 3**

above. In addition Lennig discloses a system further comprising a local directory

database (see 16 on FIG. 1) for storing, for each subscriber of the voice-responsive

messaging system, a destination party identity, a destination address, and a message

type corresponding to the destination address (see column 9, lines 20-30).

Regarding **claim 7,** Lennig and Jones disclose everything as applied to **claim 6**

above. In addition Lennig discloses a system wherein the local database stores a

plurality of message types having respective destination addresses (see column 9, lines

20-30).

Regarding **claim 8,** Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 7** above differ from

claim 8 in that **claim 8** further discloses different message types.

However, Jones discloses a system wherein the message types include a

voicemail message type, an e-mail message type, and a facsimile message type (see

30-30n on FIG. 1).

Since the different message types database will help locating destination party;

therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention

was made to have Lennig's system as modified by Jones as stated in the rejection for

claim 7 above, further adding a different message types.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the destination directory

database such that the system provider of Lennig may search the database directory

with different type of messages.

Regarding **claim 9,** Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 8** above differ from **claim 9** in that **claim 9** discloses different type processing units.

However, Jones discloses a system wherein the processing units include a voicemail processing unit for processing the voicemail message types, and an e-mail processing unit for processing the e-mail message type (see 30.3 and 30.5 on FIG. 1).

Since plural processing units will help identifying destination party; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Lennig's system as modified by Jones as stated in the rejection for **claim 8** above, further adding a plural processing units.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory access system such that the system provider of Lennig may identify a destination on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 10,** Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 9** above differ from **claim 10** in that **claim 10** discloses an e-mail processing unit.

However, Jones discloses a system wherein the e-mail processing unit is configured for processing the e-mail message type and the facsimile message type, the e-mail processing unit configured for converting messages between the e-mail message type and the facsimile message type (see column 4, lines 58-65).

Since the e-mail processing unit will help transporting signaling messages; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Lennig's system as modified by Jones as stated in the rejection for **claim 9** above, further adding an e-mail processing unit capable of processing email and facsimile message.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the e-mail processing unit such that the system provider of Lennig may transmit messages on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 11,** Lennig and Jones disclose everything as applied to **claim 6** above. In addition Lennig discloses a system further comprising a network interface configured for sending and receiving at least one of the destination address query and the second destination address query to the respective directory databases via a data network (see 18 on FIG. 1).

Regarding **claim 12,** Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 11** above differ from **claim 12** in that **claim 12** discloses an Internet.

However, Jones discloses a system wherein the data network is the Internet (see column 4, lines 45 and 50).

Since the internet access will help search for a destination party; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Lennig's system as modified by Jones as stated in the rejection for **claim 11** above, further adding an internet access.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the remote directory database such that the system provider of Lennig may search more directory databases on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 13**, Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 11** above differ from **claim 13** in that **claim 13** discloses secured information on the database.

However, Jones discloses a system wherein the master control unit outputs, via the data network, security information to at least one of the directory database and the second directory database in response to reception of a security inquiry from the corresponding directory database (see column 5, lines 44-51).

Since the control information will help search for destinations addresses; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Lennig's system as modified by Jones as stated in the rejection for **claim 11** above, further adding secured information directory database.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that the system provider of Lennig may search for control data addresses on subscriber's request.

Regarding **claim 14,** Lennig and Jones as applied to **claim 3** above differ from

claim 14 in that **claim 14** discloses a packet switched network.

However, Jones discloses a system wherein at least one of the processing units

includes a network interface for communication with a packet switched network (see

30.2 and 32 on FIG. 1).

Since the packet switch network will help the communication with a remote

database; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the

invention was made to have Lennig's system as modified by Jones as stated in the

rejection for **claim 3** above, further adding a packet switched network.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that

the system provider of Lennig may search for directory address on the network.

8.   **Claims 16-23, 25-33, 35-37 and 40-42** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Lennig.

Regarding **claim 16,** Jones as applied to **claim 15** above differs from **claim 16** in that **claim 16** discloses a directory database.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the directory database selectively supplies one of an identified destination address and a null result in the directory response in based on executing the destination address query (see column 7, lines 17-28).

Since the directory database will help the communication with a remote database; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 15** above, further adding a directory database.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 17**, Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 16** above differ from **claim 17** in that **claim 17** discloses a unified message platform.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the unified message platform system selectively sends a message, selected by the calling party, to the identified destination address in response to reception of the corresponding directory response (see column 4, lines 35-37).

Since the unified message platform will help the communication with a directory database; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 16** above, further adding a unified message platform.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the message platform such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address.

Regarding **claims 18 and 32,** Jones and Lennig disclose everything as applied

to **claims 17 and 24** above. In addition Jones discloses a system wherein the

destination address query and the directory response are each transported via the data

network as TCAP query and TCAP response messages, respectively [This system will

accept all type of interfaces] (see column 5, lines 23-27).

Regarding **claims 19 and 33,** Jones and Lennig disclose everything as applied

to **claims 17 and 24** above. In addition Jones discloses a system wherein the

destination address query and the directory response are each transported via the data

network according to TCP/IP protocol (see column 5, lines 23-27).

Regarding **claim 20,** Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 15** above differ from **claim 20** in that **claim 20** discloses the unified message platform system.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the unified message platform system further includes:

a local directory database for storing (see 16 on FIG. 1), for each subscriber of the unified message platform system, a destination party identity (see 305 on FIG. 3A), a destination address (see 306 on FIG. 3A), and a message type corresponding to the destination address (see FIG. 8); and

a master control unit configured for outputting the destination address query to the directory database via the data network based on a detected absence of the destination party identity in the local directory database (see column 4, lines 35-42).

Since the unified message platform will help the communication with a directory database; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 15** above, further adding a unified message platform.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the message platform such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address.

Regarding **claim 21,** Jones and Lennig disclose everything as applied to **claim 20** above. In addition Jones discloses a system wherein the unified message platform system further includes a plurality of processing units, each configured for storing and processing a message for each said subscriber according to a corresponding subscriber destination address and according to a corresponding message type (see 30.1-30.n on FIG. 1).

Regarding **claim 22,** Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 21** above differ from **claim 22** in that **claim 22** discloses the master control unit.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the master control unit sends a message selected by the calling party from the corresponding processing unit to the destination address corresponding to the destination party identity (see column 4, lines 37-42).

Since the master control unit will help the communication with a directory database; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 21** above, further adding a master control unit.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the master control unit such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 23,** Jones and Lennig disclose everything as applied to **claim 21** above. In addition Jones discloses a system wherein one of the processing units supplies a destination address retrieved from the directory response based on the corresponding message type (see S3, S4, S6, S8 and S13 on FIG.5).

Regarding **claim 25,** Jones and Lennig disclose everything as applied to **claim 24** above. In addition Jones discloses a system further comprising forwarding a message to a destination system corresponding to the destination address according to a data protocol corresponding to the destination address type (see 32 on FIG.1).

Regarding **claim 26,** Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 25** above differ from **claim 26** in that **claim 26** discloses a directory database.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the directory database selectively supplies one of an identified destination address and a null result in the directory response in based on executing the destination address query (see column 7, lines 17-28).

Since the directory database will help identify the destination address; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 25** above, further adding a directory database.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 27,** Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 26** above differ from **claim 27** in that **claim 27** discloses the identifier corresponds to at least one of a personal directory for the calling party.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the identifier corresponds to at least one of a personal directory for the calling party, a public directory having a listing for the destination party, and a private directory serving the destination party (see column 7, lines 17-47).

Since the identifier will help search the destination address; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 26** above, further adding an identifier.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 28,** Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 27** above differ from **claim 28** in that **claim 28** discloses the private directory.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the private directory corresponds to one of a corporate directory listing the destination party as an employee, and a subscriber directory listing the destination party as a subscriber (see column 7, lines 35-37).

Since the private directory will help identify the destination address; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 27** above, further adding a private directory database.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 29**, Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 26** above differ from **claim 29** in that **claim 29** discloses a directory system.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the determining step comprises:

identifying a destination directory database based on identification for speech samples spoken by the calling party on the line-sided connection (see column 7, lines 17-21);

accessing a database for retrieval of a network address for the destination directory database, the step of accessing the directory database including accessing the directory database based on the network address retrieved from the database (see column 10, lines 40-44).

Since this system will help accessing the destination address; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 26** above, further adding a directory system.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 30,** Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 29** above differ from

claim 30 in that **claim 30** discloses destination directory database.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the step of identifying the

destination directory database includes selecting from a group of available directories

(see column 9, lines 20-30).

Since the destination directory database will help identify the destination address;

therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention

was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for

claim 29 above, further adding a destination directory database.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that

the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 31,** Jones and Lennig disclose everything as applied to **claim**

30 above. In addition Jones discloses a system wherein the group of available

directories includes a personal directory stored on a personal computer (see FIG. 3), a

public directory (see 30n on FIG. 1), a corporate employee directory (see 30n on FIG.

1), an e-mail address directory (see 30.3 on FIG. 1), and a mailing address directory

(see 30n on FIG. 1).

Regarding **claim 35,** Jones as applied to **claim 34** above differs from **claim 35** in that **claim 35** discloses the directory access system.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the directory access system includes a master control unit configured for generating a destination address query for an identified directory database in response to identification of the destination party (see column 4, lines 29-35) and the destination address type by the speech recognition unit (see 14A on FIG.2), wherein the master control unit, in response to receiving a destination address reply from the identified directory database, selectively initiates a transfer of a message to the destination party based on the destination address reply (see column 4, lines 35-41).

Since the directory access system will help identify the destination address; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 25** above, further adding a directory access system.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 36,** Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 35** above differ from **claim 36** in that **claim 36** discloses a signaling network.

However, Lennig discloses a system further comprising a signaling network for transporting signaling messages (see 12 on FIG. 1), the directory access system comprising a signaling network interface (see 18 on FIG.1) for sending the destination address query to the identified directory database (see 20 on FIG. 1), and for receiving the destination address reply from the identified directory database, via an interoffice signaling network (see 30 on FIG. 1) configured for exchanging data between the voice-responsive messaging system and the identified directory database (see column 4, lines 45-55).

Since the signaling network will help identify the destination address; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 25** above, further adding a signaling network.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 37**, Jones and Lennig disclose everything as applied to **claim 36** above. In addition Jones discloses a system wherein the unified message platform system further comprises:

a plurality of processing units, each configured for storing and processing a message for the calling party having a corresponding destination address type (see 44 on FIG. 2); and

a digital switching system (see 26 on FIG. 1) for switching calls between an assigned Multi-Line Hunt Group (see 46 on FIG. 2) connected to the central office switching system and a selected one of the processing units (see 30n on FIG. 1), the master control unit selectively causing the digital switching system to establish a line-sided connection between the selected one processing unit and the calling party for retrieval of the message for the calling party (see column 5 lines 18-23).

Regarding **claim 40,** Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 38** above differ from **claim 40** in that **claim 40** discloses a local directory database.

However, Lennig discloses a system further comprising a local directory database for storing (see 16 on FIG.1), for each subscriber of the voice-responsive messaging system, a destination party identity, a destination address, and a destination address type corresponding to the destination address (see column 9, lines 20-30).

Since the local directory database will help identify the destination address; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 38** above, further adding a local directory database.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 41**, Jones and Lennig as applied to **claim 40** above differ from **claim 41** in that **claim 41** discloses a local database.

However, Lennig discloses a system wherein the local database stores a plurality of destination address types having respective destination addresses (see column 9, lines 20-30).

Since the local database will help identify the destination address; therefore it would have been obvious to one skill in the art at that time of the invention was made to have Jones' system as modified by Lennig as stated in the rejection for **claim 40** above, further adding a local database.

The modification will allow the subscriber to use the directory database such that the system provider of Jones may search for directory address on the network.

Regarding **claim 42**, Jones and Lennig disclose everything as applied to **claim 41** above. In addition Jones discloses a system wherein the destination address types include a voicemail destination address type (see 30 on FIG.1), an e-mail destination address type (see 30 on FIG.1), and a facsimile destination address type (see 30 on FIG.1).

Conclusion

9.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Meador III et al. is cited for an automated directory assistance system using word

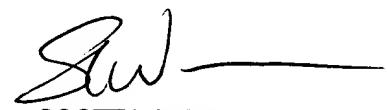recognition and phoneme processing method (see FIG. 2).

Bates et al. is cited for a network and method for providing cross-media

connections.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Gerald Gauthier whose telephone number is (703) 305-

0981. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Fan Tsang can be reached on (703) 305-4895. The fax phone numbers for

the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for

regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-

4750.

g.g.

November 19, 2001

SCOTT L. WEAVER

PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit 2645